

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 STR-08

TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01 OMB-01 H-02 L-03 RSR-01

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R 161755 Z MAR 73

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4884

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 1455

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PGOV, EEC

SUBJECT: MARCH SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

REF: EC BRUSSELS 1349 AND 1379

1. SUMMARY. DURING ITS MARCH SESSION AT STRASBOURG, THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (EP) ELECTED ITS PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS, AND ORGANIZED ITS COMMITTEES FOR THE CURRENT PARLIAMENTARY YEAR. A NUMBER OF INTERESTING AND TIMELY DEBATES WERE ALSO HELD. SOMAES SPOKE ON US- EC RELATIONS IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS (PARA 7). AND SUMMARY.

2. THE FIRST DAY OF THE MARCH MEETING, MARCH 12, WAS THE FINAL DAY OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR' S PARLIAMENTARY SESSION. THE PRINCIPAL UNCLASSIFIED

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BUSINESS WAS THE VERIFICATION OF CREDENTIALS AND SEATING OF THE NEWLY APPOINTED GERMAN AND DUTCH MEMBERS.

3. THE OPENING OF THE 1973-74 PARLIAMENTARY SESSION ON MARCH 13 WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE ELECTION OF THE PARLIAMENT' S NEW PRESIDENT, BERKHOUWER (REFTELS). POLITICAL GROUP DISCIPLINE WAS EVIDENTLY STRONGLY ADHERED TO IN THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT. OF 89 POSSIBLE VOTES FROM THE SOCIALIST, LIBERAL AND GAULLIST GROUPS, BERKHOUWER RECEIVED 85; OF A POSSIBLE 75 VOTES FROM THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC AND CONSERVATIVE GROUPS, SCHUIJT RECEIVED 71.

4. ELEVEN OF THE TWELVE EP VICE PRESIDENTIAL SEATS WERE FILLED. THE PARLIAMENT' S BUREAU HAD PREVIOUSLY DECIDED TO HOLD ONE VICE PRESIDENTIAL SEAT VACANT IN ANTICIPATION THAT IT WOULD BE FILLED BY A BRITISH LABOR PARTY MEMBER LATER DURING THISSESSION.

5. A FINAL ORDER OF BUSINESS ON THIS DAY WAS THE APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PARIAMENT' S COMMITTEES. THE MEMBERS FOR EACH OF THE 12 COMMITTEES HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN CHOSEN BY THE BUREAU AND THE RESULTS WERE ACCEPTED BY THE PARLIAMENT AFTER SOME GRUMBLING FROM THE INDEPENDENTS.

6. THE QUESTION TIME ON MARCH 14 WAS SOMEWHAT BETTER THAN AT ITS INITIAL SESSION LAST MONTH IN LUXEMBOURG (EC BRUSSELS 849). HOWEVER, THERE IS OBVIOUSLY NEED FOR SOME IMPROVEMENT. THERE WERE GOOD EXCHANGES ON " POLITICAL" QUESTIONS BUT THE ECHANGES ON THE " TECHNICAL" QUESTIONS WERE LESS SPARKLING.

7. COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES REPLIED TO TWO QUESTIONS ON US- EC RELATIONS AND THE COMMISSION' S ASSESSMENT OF THE BURKE- HARTKE BILL BY SAYING THAT DIFFERENCES REMAIN BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE U. S. " BUT THE DANGER OF OUR SHOUTING AT EACH OTHER ACROSS THE ATLANTIC ON TRADE MATTERS IS RECEDING." SOAMES SAID THAT THE U. S. ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT FAVOR THE N BURKE- HARTKE BILL BUT IS SEEKING AUTHORIZATION FOR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HE HOPED WILL CONTAIN A NUMBER OF CONSTRUCTIVE ELEMENTS AND GIVE THE PRESIDENT AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE THE MAJOR REDUCTION OF OBSTACLES TO TRADE. SOAMES ALSO SAID THAT IN APRIL THE COMMISSION WOULD SUBMIT A PAPER TO THE COUNCIL ON THE QUESTION OF THE COMMUNIT' S NEGOTIATING POSITION IN THE GATT MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD BE UNCLASSIFIED

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PREPARED TO DISCUSS US- EC RELATIONS FURTHER AT THE APRIL SESSION

OF THE PARLIAMENT (WHICH HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR APRIL 4-6
AT LUXEMBOURG).

8. SOAMES WAS PRESSED ON THE COMMUNITY' S RELATIONS WITH GREECE
BY SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT. HE REPLIED THAT THE
COMMUNITY RESTRICTS ITS RELATIONS WITH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO
THE ADMINISTRATION OF CURRENT BUSINESS. WHEN PRESSED FOR
FURTHER COMMENT, HE REPLIED SHARPLY THAT HE HOPED HE WOULD NOT
HAVE TO MAKE A STATEMENT EVERY TIME A VIOLATION OF HUMANS RIGHTS
TAKES PLACE IN ANOTHER COUNTRY. (THE TEXT OF THIS EXCHANGE
WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE DEPARTMENT AND TO EMBASSY ATHENS.)

9. LATER ON THAT DAY, THE PARLIAMENT, COUNCIL AND COMMISSION
PARTICIPATED IN THE SO- CALLED ANNUAL COLLOQUIM OF THE COMMUNITY' S
INSTITUTIONS. THE SUBJECT WAS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECISIONS OF THE EC PARIS SUMMIT ON ECONOMIC POLICY, MONETARY
STABILITY AND THE FIGHT AGAINST INFLATION. THE PRESIDENT OF THE
COUNCIL ALSO GAVE A REPORT ON CONCIL ACTIVITIES. JOHN
DAVIES, CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER, TOOK PART IN THE
DISCUSSION ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE. HE WAS THE FIRST BRITISH
MINISTER TO ADDRESS THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. DAVIES SUGGESTED
THAT, WITH RESPECT TO THE PRINCIPAL THEME OF THE COLLOQUIM,
TO ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVES, THE COMMUNITY NEEDED A CENTRAL CAPA-
CITY TO ORCHESTRATE ECONOMIC POLICIES.

10. THE FOLLOWING TWO DAYS WERE DEVOTED TO DISCUSSIONS AND
DEBATES ON A NUMBER OF REPORTS. A SERIES OF QUESTIONS WAS
DIRECTED AT SOAMES BY THE DUTCH MEMBER VREDELING REGARDING THE
COMMUNITY' S RELATIONS WITH PROTUGAL; SOAMES ANSWERED VREDELING BY
REFERRING TO HIS STATEMENT MADE EARLIER REGARDING RELATIONS WITH
GREECE. THE PARLIAMENT DISCUSSION ON A COMMUNITY URANIUM
ENRICHMENT CAPABILITY IS BEING REPORTED BY SEPTEL.
GREENWALD

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ECBRU01455
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730334/aaaaibyo.tel
Line Count: 152
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 EC BRUSSELS 1349
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Aug-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <15-Aug-2001 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971217
Subject: MARCH SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
TAGS: PGOV, EEC
To: ATHENS
BONN
BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN
DUBLIN
EUR
LONDON

LUXEMBOURG
SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005